

DC

UNIVERSE

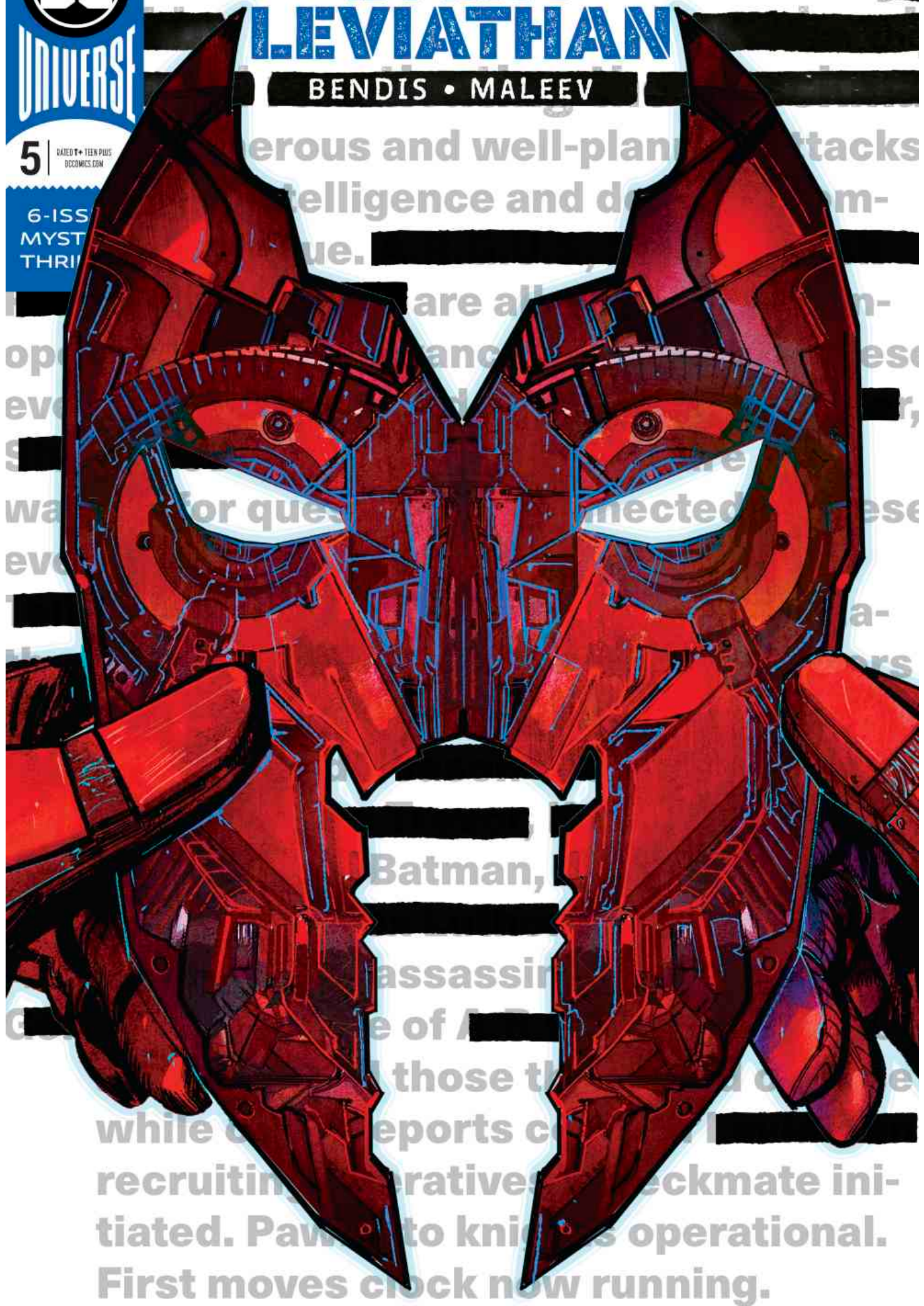
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EVENT LEVIATHAN

BENDIS • MALEEV



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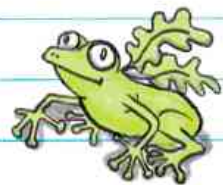
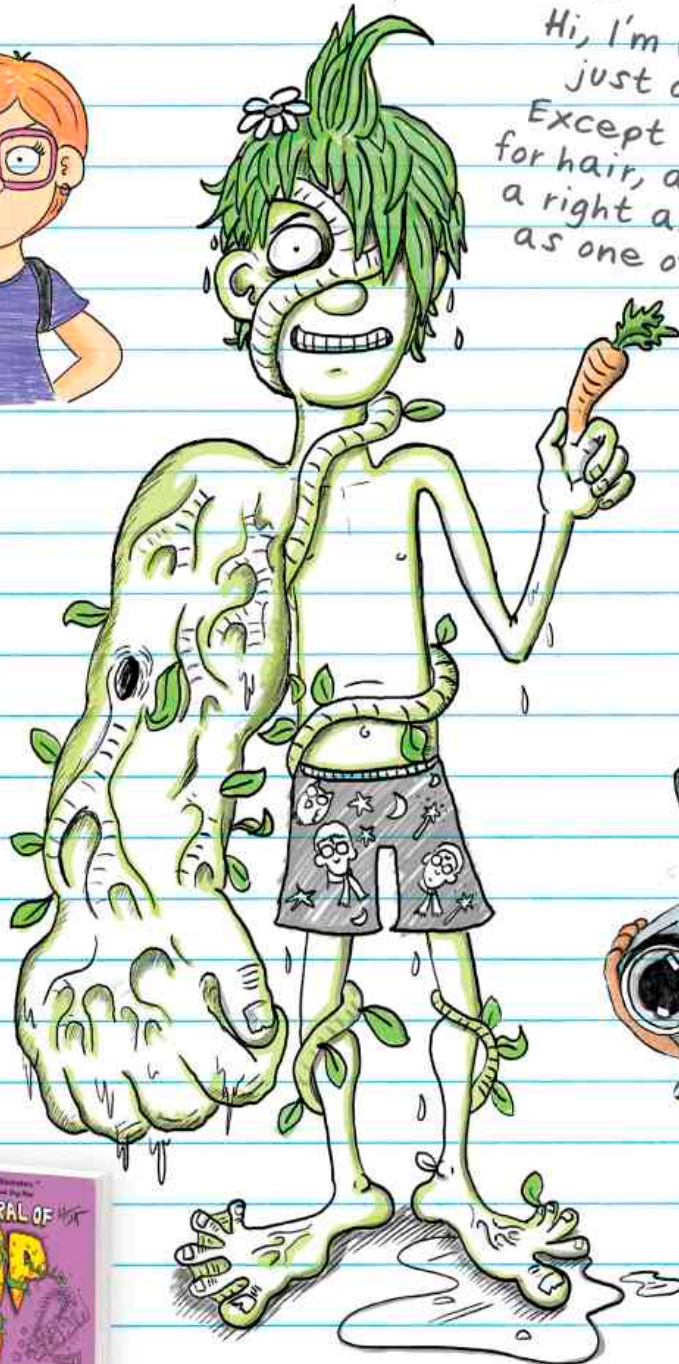
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Batman,
assassin
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checkmate ini-
tiated. Pav
to kni
s operational.
First moves clock now running.

Discover how I went from pond scum to hero!

THE SECRET SPIRAL OF SWAMP KID

Hi, I'm Russell and I'm just a normal kid. Except I've got algae for hair, a tree trunk for a right arm, and a frog as one of my friends.



Written &
Illustrated by

**KIRK
SCROGGS**



SEPTEMBER

A new middle grade
graphic novel

THE PRIMARY LIST OF
LEVIATHAN SUSPECTS
IS AS FOLLOWS...

STEVE TREVOR.

SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE
FINAL A.R.G.U.S. ATTACK.



DIRECTOR
BONES A.K.A.
ROBERT TODD
OF THE NOW-
NO-LONGER
D.E.O.



AMANDA WALLER.

SUICIDE SQUAD,
A.R.G.U.S.--I
ASSUME NOW
FORMERLY.



TALIA AL GHUL.

FOUNDER OF
LEVIATHAN WHEN
IT WAS JUST YOUR
AVERAGE RUN-OF-THE-
MILL INTERNATIONAL
ARMS-DEALING
ORGANIZATION.



EVERYONE'S
PAIN IN THE
ASS, MAXWELL
LORD.



BATGIRL.

M.I.A.



JAMES OLSEN,
PHOTOJOURNALIST
FOR THE DAILY
PLANET.

SOLE SURVIVOR
OF THE KOBRA
CULT ATTACK.



RA'S AL
GHUL.

TERRORIST AND
HEAD OF THE LEAGUE
OF SHADOWS.



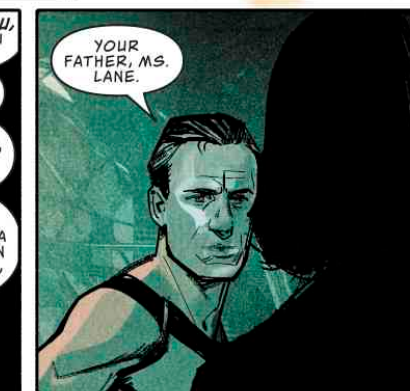
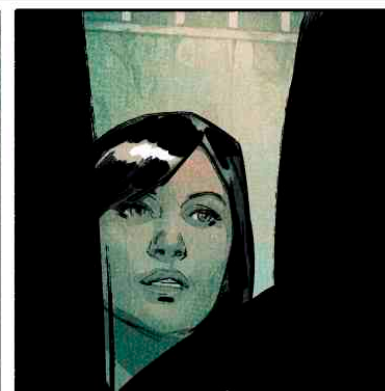
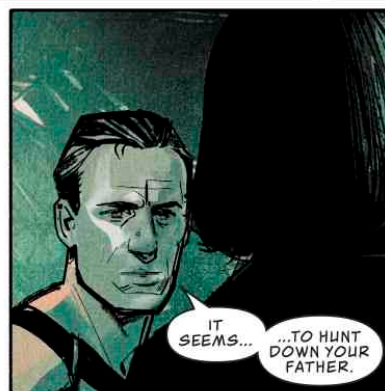
THE RED HOOD.

VIGILANTE.



AND KATE
SPENCER.

MANHUNTER
SET UP BY
LEVIATHAN.



A person and organization named LEVIATHAN accomplishes the impossible and simultaneously takes over the major pillars of the world intelligence community.

The D.E.O., SPYRAL, A.R.G.U.S., and many others no longer exist, with their technology, information, resources, and personnel now co-opted and controlled by LEVIATHAN. A.R.G.U.S. exec GENERAL SAM LANE and Task Force X director AMANDA WALLER are both singled out as direct targets, with GENERAL LANE hospitalized.

GREEN ARROW escapes an attack and declines to align himself with the organization, but BATGIRL joins as a mole to help unlock LEVIATHAN's mysterious new goals.

The world's greatest detectives--BATMAN, PLASTIC MAN, GREEN ARROW, the QUESTION, and legendary reporter LOIS LANE--come together hoping to understand how LEVIATHAN accomplishes so much so fast. Who could be leading this new dangerous and driven version of the organization?

Thus far, the detectives' efforts have proven fruitless. All they know is that LEVIATHAN possesses weapons that can render even SUPERMAN ineffective. Early suspects, such as the RED HOOD, are merely red herrings.

With no other recourse, LOIS LANE turns to a second group of investigators following a parallel investigation.

ELONGATED MAN, JOHN CONSTANTINE, Gotham City cop HARVEY BULLOCK, mistress of the mystic arts ZATANNA, DEATHSTROKE the Terminator, and the (other) QUESTION deliver new information that LOIS may not want to accept...

EVENT LEVIATHAN

Brian Michael Bendis
Story

Josh Reed
Letters

Mike Cotton
Editor

Brian Cunningham
Group editor

Alex Maleev
Art & Cover

David Mack
Variant cover

Jessica Chen
Associate editor

Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.





ZATANNA CAN
TAKE YOU, *ALL*
OF US, RIGHT TO
OUR NEXT STEP
IN THE CASE...

...RIGHT INTO
YOUR FATHER'S
HOSPITAL ROOM
IN COLUMBUS.

WE CAN
GET TO THE
BOTTOM OF THIS
TOGETHER.



OH,
OKAY...

...SO
YOU HAVE NO
PROOF, GUYS,
YOU'RE BEING
PLAYED.

THEY HAD
MY OTHER
GUYS THINKING
IT *WAS* THE
RED--



WE
HAVE A TRAIL
OF *PROOF*,
LOIS.

THE KIND
YOU'RE GOING
TO *HAVE* TO
PRINT.

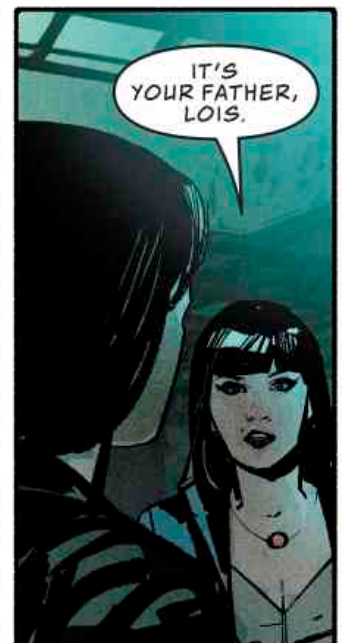
PROOF
THAT LED
US HERE.

BUT WE WAITED
FOR *YOU* TO TAKE
THIS NEXT STEP.



WHY?

WHY WOULD
YOU WAIT FOR
ME?



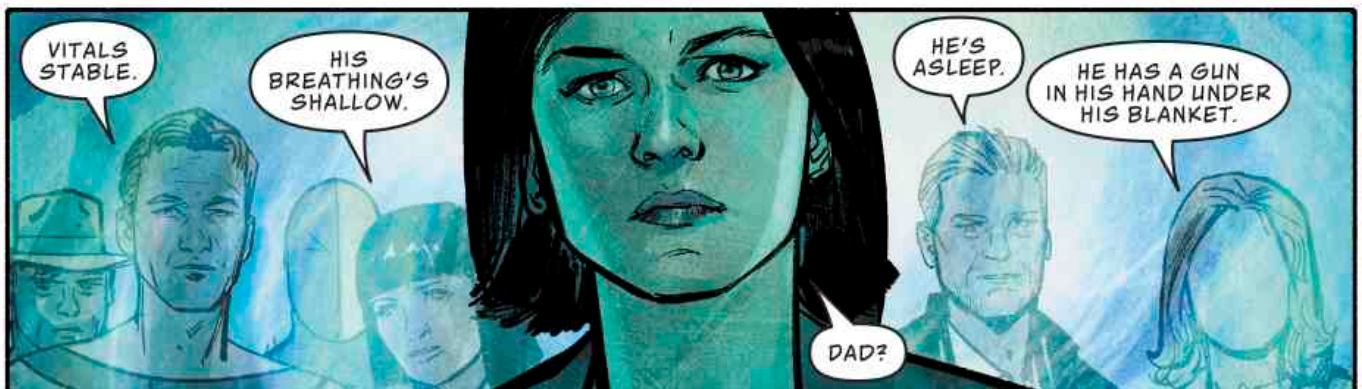
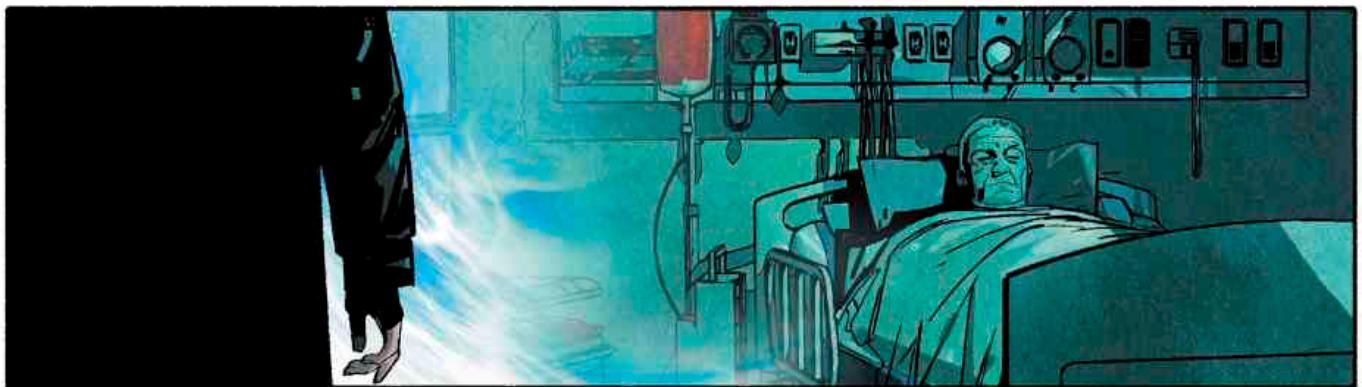
IT'S
YOUR FATHER,
LOIS.



@#\$%!

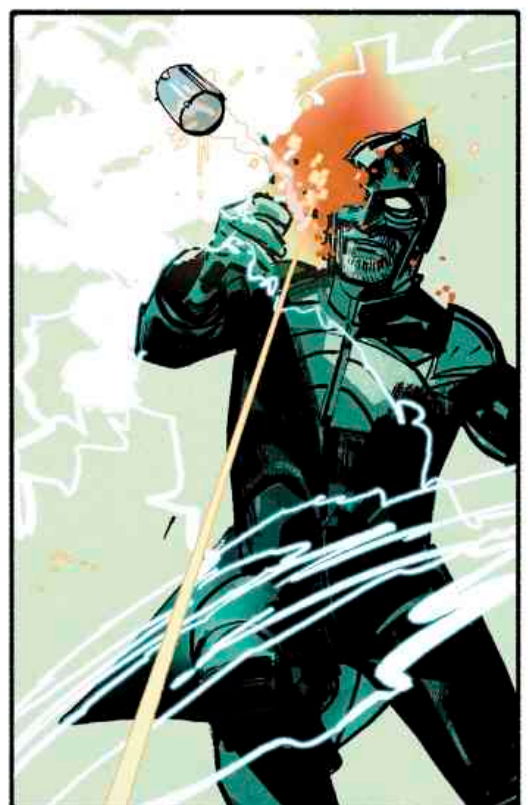
SMALLVILLE,
I NEED YOU.

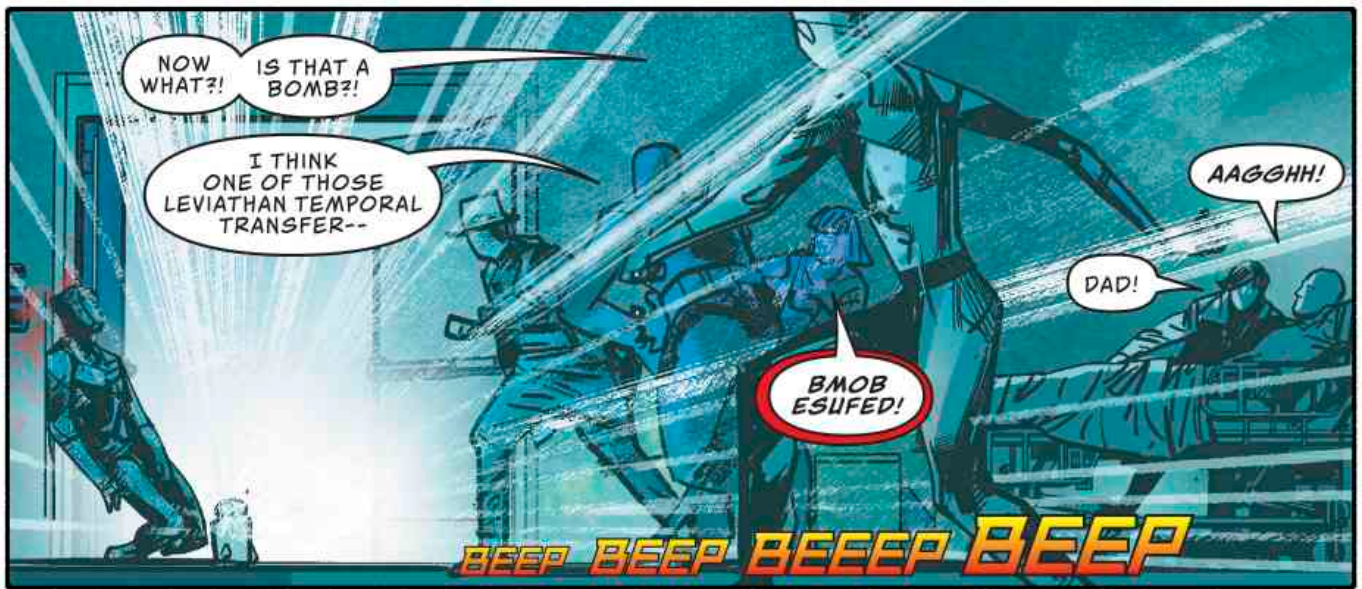


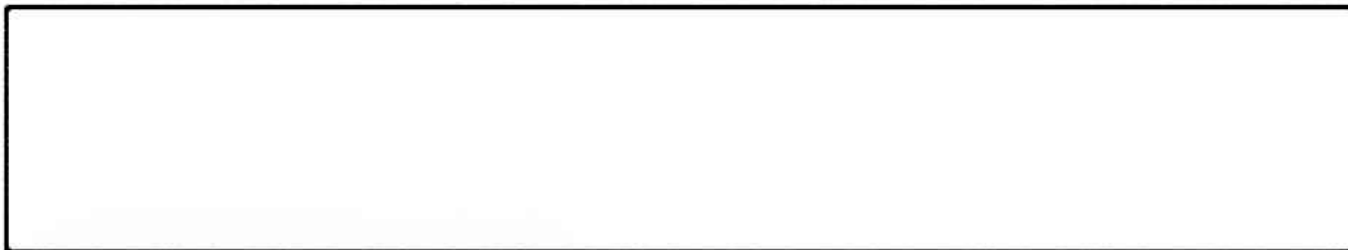












CHICAGO.

YOU FOUND
YOUR WAY
HERE...

COMPELLED.
RIGHT?

UGH,
I WISH
YOU COULD
SEE HOW MUCH
WE WANT THE
SAME DAMN
THING!



NOT IN THAT
"WE'RE A LOT
ALIKE, YOU AND
I..." KIND OF
WAY.

WE'RE
NOT.

AT ALL.

WE'RE
REACHING FOR
THE EXACT SAME
THING, BUT I KNOW--I
KNOW THERE'S NO WAY ON
EARTH, OR KRYPTON,
YOU COULD SEE
THAT TODAY.



NOT
TODAY.

NOT WITH THE
WAY WE'VE ALL BEEN
CONDITIONED.

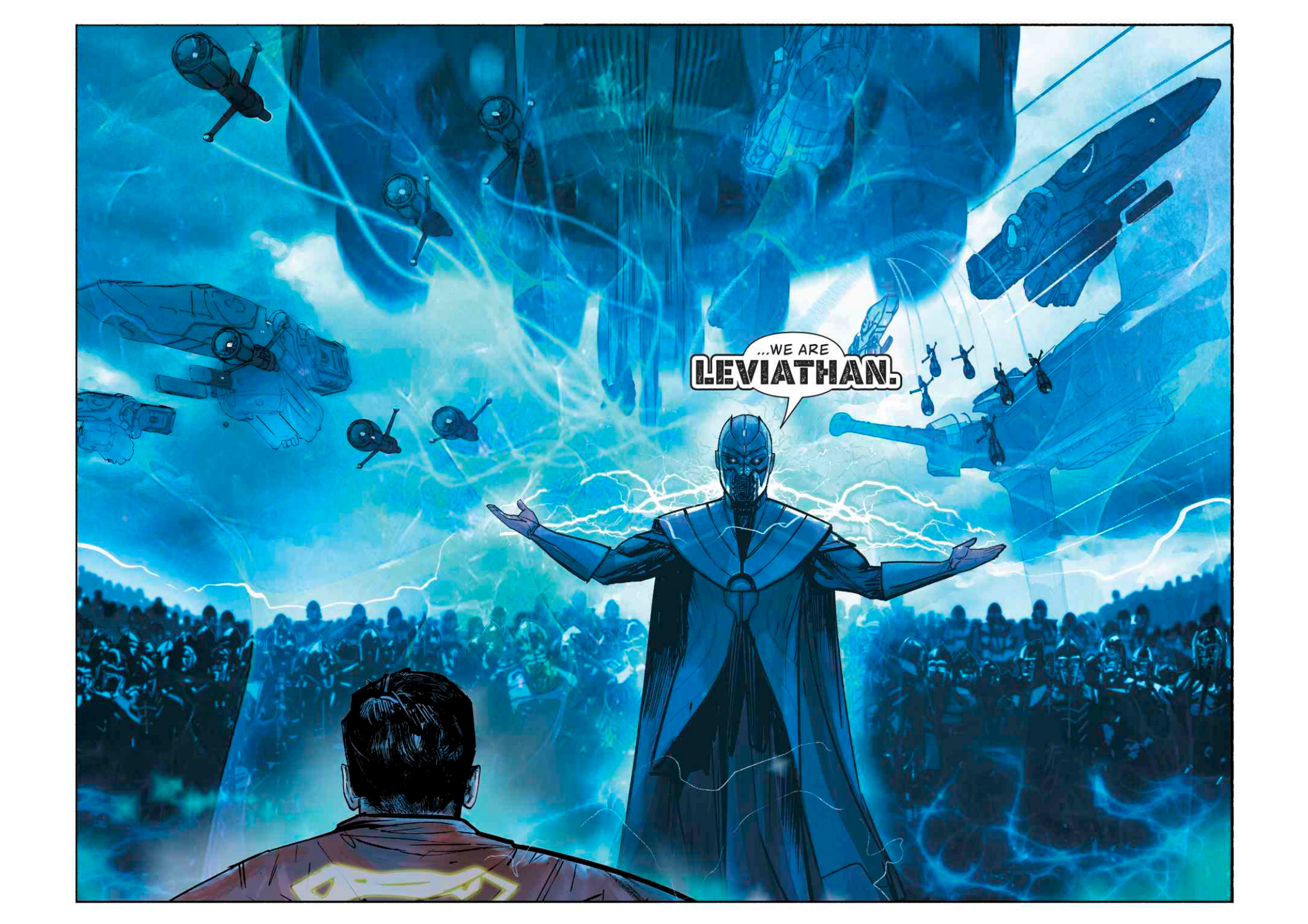
...AND I KNOW IT'S
LAUGHABLE HOW BADLY
WE GOT OFF ON THE
WRONG FOOT BUT...

...WE'LL ALL
BE COEXISTING
TOGETHER ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER...

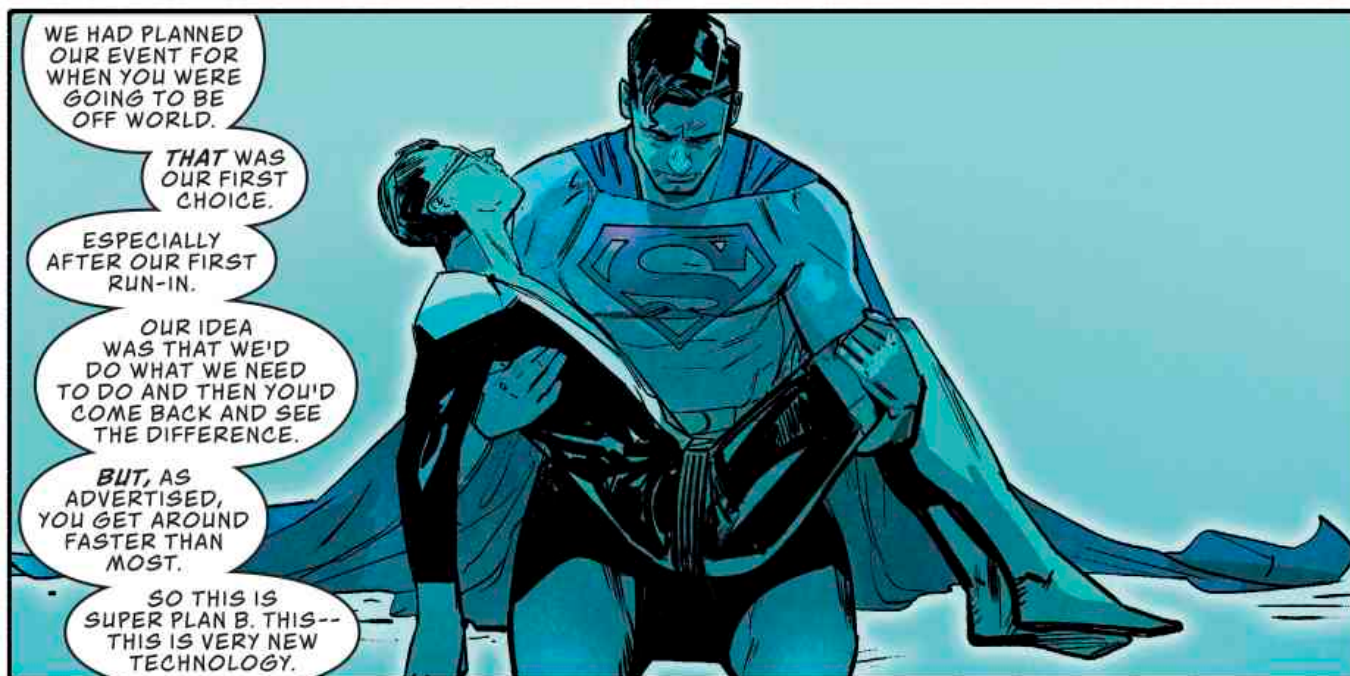


...SO LET'S
EACH INTRODUCE
OURSELVES
PROPERLY...





...WE ARE
LEVIATHAN.



WE HAD PLANNED
OUR EVENT FOR
WHEN YOU WERE
GOING TO BE
OFF WORLD.

THAT WAS
OUR FIRST
CHOICE.

ESPECIALLY
AFTER OUR FIRST
RUN-IN.

OUR IDEA
WAS THAT WE'D
DO WHAT WE NEED
TO DO AND THEN YOU'D
COME BACK AND SEE
THE DIFFERENCE.

BUT, AS
ADVERTISED,
YOU GET AROUND
FASTER THAN
MOST.

SO THIS IS
SUPER PLAN B. THIS--
THIS IS VERY NEW
TECHNOLOGY.



WE
DISCOVERED
THIS TECH IN
THE SPYRAL FILES
WE RECENTLY
ABSORBED.

SPYRAL'S
BLACK OPS
R AND D OFF-
THE-BOOKS
STUFF.

IT WAS
LABELED, I KID
YOU NOT, *THINGS
TO DO IN CASE THE
SON OF SUPERMAN
HITS PUBERTY
BADLY.*

THE SPIES
THAT SPY ON
SUPERHEROES
SPECIFICALLY CREATED
THIS TO CONTAIN
YOUR PUBESCENT SON.



I'M TELLING
YOU BECAUSE,
IF IT WERE *ME*, JUST
THE IDEA THAT THESE
ORGANIZATIONS SPENT
ALL THAT MONEY AND
WENT TO *ALL THAT
TROUBLE* TO MAKE
A BEAR TRAP FOR
MY KID?!



AFTER ALL
YOU'VE DONE
FOR THEM...

TO ME, IT--
TO ME *THAT SAYS
EVERYTHING THAT'S
WRONG WITH
EVERYTHING.*

BUT
PEOPLE LIKE
US, YOU AND
I--



STOP
SELLING.

I'M NOT
BUYING.

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?



"HE WANTS WHAT
EVERYBODY
WANTS..."

GOTHAM CITY.

...HE WANTS
WHAT HE DIDN'T GET
FROM MOMMY.

I JUST
WANT TO SHUT
IT DOWN.

I DON'T CARE
WHAT LEVIATHAN
WANTS.

SEAT
BELTS.

WE HAVE TO
FIND BATGIRL. WE
FIND BATGIRL...

...WE
FIND ALL THE
ANSWERS.

IT'S DEFINITELY
SOMEONE WE
KNOW.

IT'S SOMEONE
WITH ACCESS
TO INTEL.

THAT'S NOT
NECESSARILY
THE SAME THING,
ROBIN.

WELL, NOW I AM
VERY SUSPICIOUS
OF LOIS LANE.

WELL,
THAT'S GOOFY
THINKING, KID.

I AM VERY
SUSPICIOUS OF
YOU TOO, BY THE WAY.

IF I WERE LEVIATHAN,
YOU *REALLY* THINK I'D
SPEND MY BIG NIGHT
TAKING OVER THE
WORLD STUCK IN
THE NEW BATVAN
WITH YOU?

IT'S
ACTUALLY A
STATE-OF-THE-
ART ALL-TERRAIN
WAR MACHINE
FROM--

IS IT
LEVIATHAN,
BATS??
THEN WHO
CARES?

WHAT ARE YOU
THINKING,
MANHUNTER?

I'M THINKING
I GET A QUES-
TION FROM THE
QUESTION AND IT'S:
WHAT ARE YOU
THINKING?

I'M
PERSONALLY
TRYING TO FIND A
WAY TO SAY I HAVE A BAD
FEELING ABOUT THIS
WITHOUT SOUNDING
CLICHÉ.

BUT I HAVE
A BAD FEELING
ABOUT THIS.

"THE WORLD
NEEDS TO
CHANGE.

"AND I
KNOW...

...I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN RAISED IN
SUCH A WAY THAT YOU, EVEN WITH
ALL THAT POWER TO CLEARLY
SEE THE WORLD FOR WHAT
IT HAS BECOME...

...WILL NEVER
BE ABLE TO PULL
THE TRIGGER...

...YOU'LL NEVER
BE ABLE TO *REALLY*
CHANGE THINGS.

THAT'S
OKAY. YOU KNOW
WHY?

YOU KNOW WHAT
NO ONE HAS EVER
TOLD YOU, SUPERMAN?







NO, I
WASN'T.

OH NO.



IT'S
NOT A
MASK.

AND YOUR
POWERS
DON'T WORK
IN THERE.



WHO ELSE
HAS ACCESS TO
THAT TECH?

WHO ELSE
WAS A
MANHUNTER?



A MASK IS
A SECRET.

THIS ENTIRE
EVENT HAS BEEN
ABOUT TRUTH.

WE GOT RID
OF THE SPIES
BECAUSE THE FIRST
ORDER OF BUSINESS
IN THE NEW WORLD
IS: NO MORE
SECRETS.



YOU?



WHAT?
SOMEONE WHO WAS
A MANHUNTER
OR IS ANTI-
MAN--

IT WOULD
EXPLAIN WHY
YOU WERE
SET UP.

PULL
OVER.
LET ME
OUT.



NO. SIT DOWN.
WE'RE ALMOST
THERE AND YOU'LL
BE A BIG PART
OF THE--



PULL
OVER OR I'LL
JUMP!

SIT
DOWN
AND--



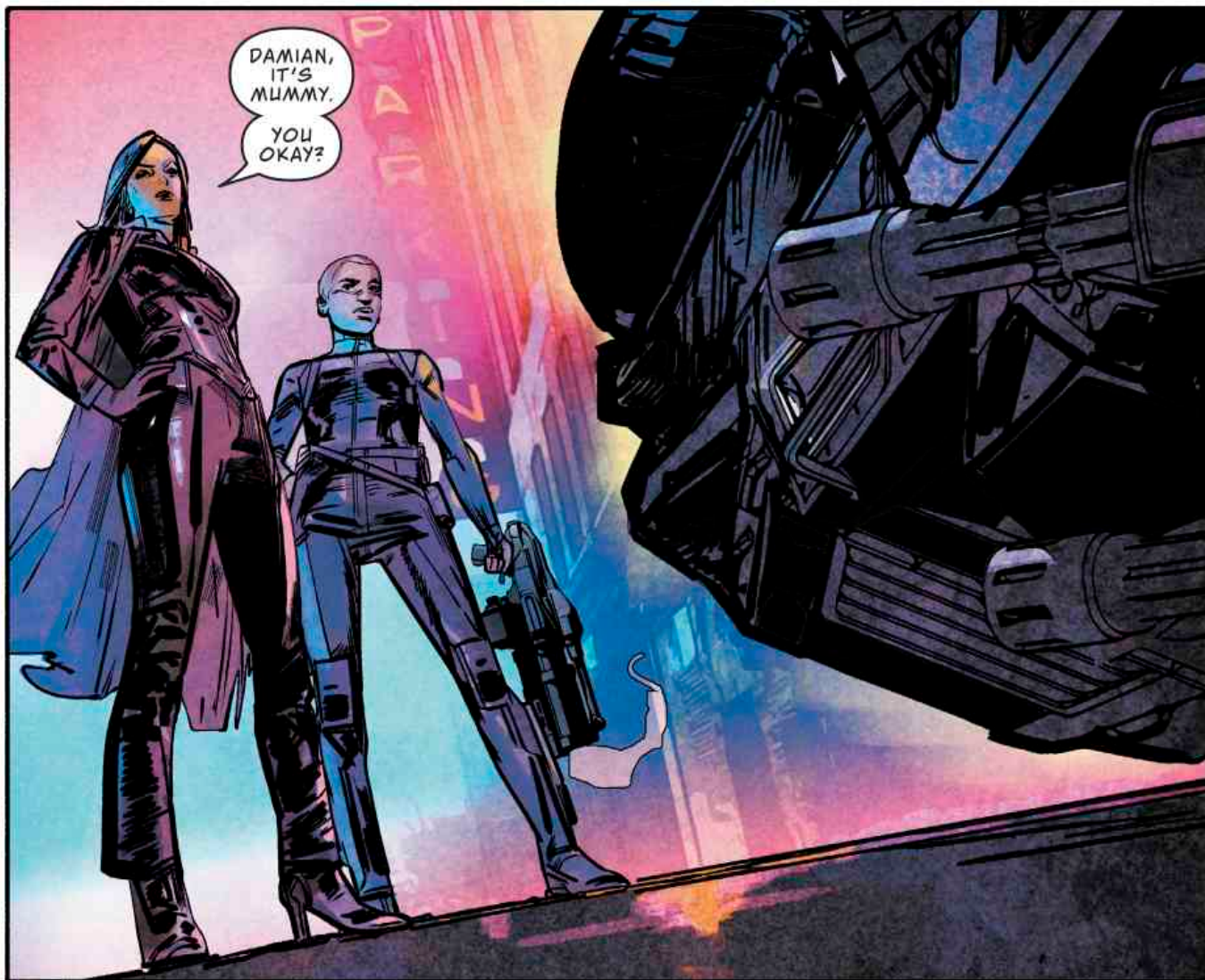
GIVE ME
THE STAFF
OR I WILL
BREAK
YOUR--



OH,
GOOD.

HER.

SORRY,
DARLING, IT WAS
ONLY SUPPOSED
TO GET YOUR
ATTENTION...



DAMIAN,
IT'S
MUMMY.
YOU
OKAY?



TALIA
AL GHUL,
WHY ARE
YOU--?
HOW
ARE YOU
HERE?

WUGGGHHHHH!



WOULD
YOU BE SO KIND
AS TO HAVE YOUR
MANHUNTER STEP
OUTSIDE?

PLEASE
DO HURRY.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
I HAVE TO
SAVE THE
WORLD...

**NEXT:
LEVIATHAN REVEALED!**

Best Comic Book - 21st Annual GLAAD Media Awards

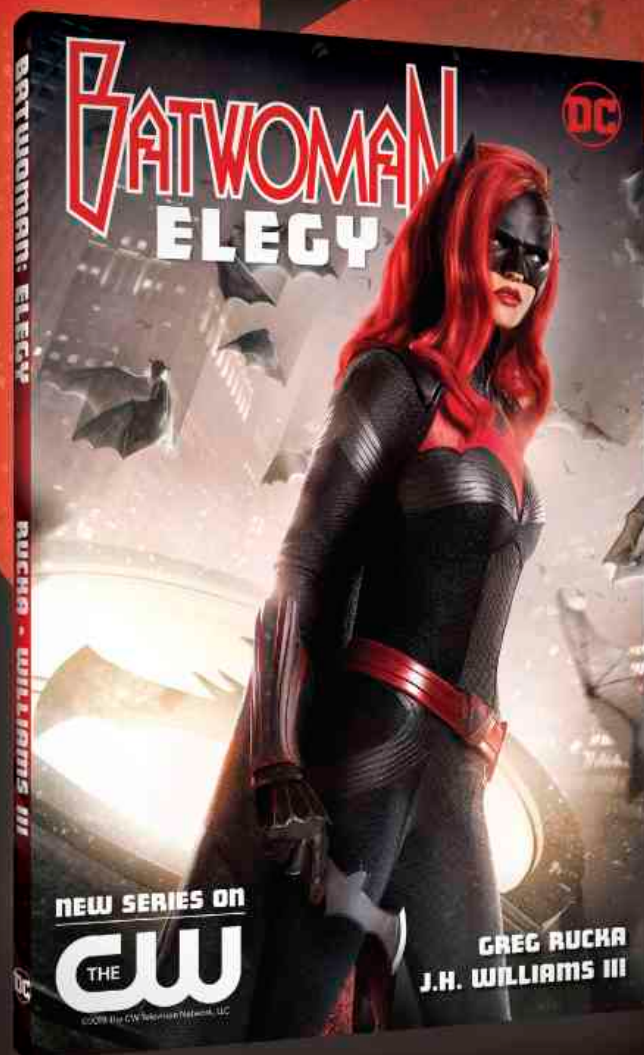
THE HERO WE NEED IS HERE!

"INCREDIBLE."
—THE A.V. CLUB

"GORGEOUS."
—IGN

Written by
GREG RUCKA

Illustrated by
J.H. WILLIAMS III



DON'T MISS THE NEW SERIES ON



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JOKER: KILLER SMILE

JOKER: KILLER SMILE invites readers to an all-new and truly terrifying look at Batman's archenemy. Writer **JEFF LEMIRE** and artist **ANDREA SORRENTINO** discuss taking on The Joker, and the descent into madness awaiting Arkham Asylum psychotherapist Dr. Ben Arnell.

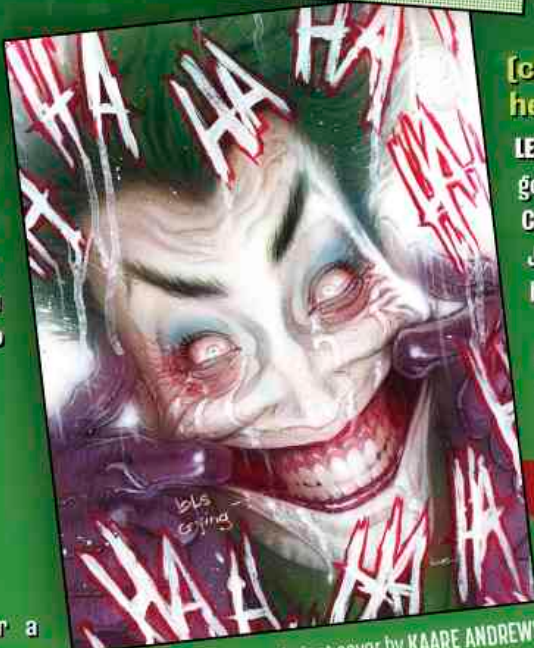
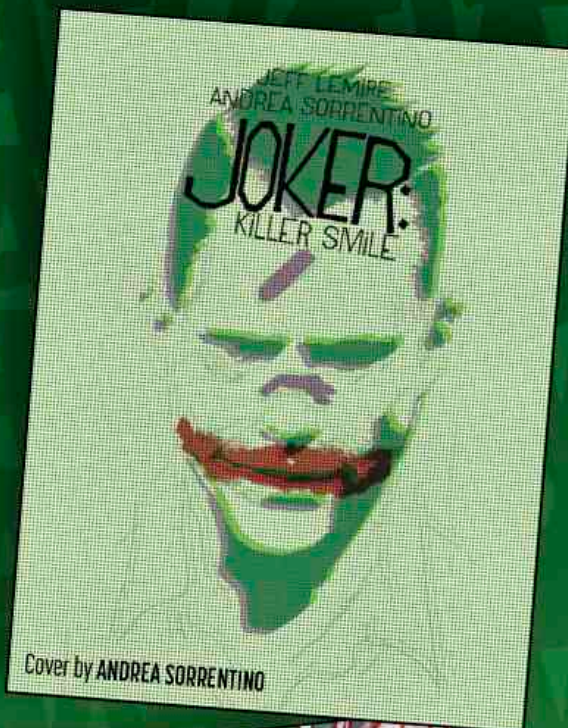
What aspects of The Joker did you want to explore? What shaped your take on him?

JEFF LEMIRE: I've written a lot of the DC Universe in the past, but I have never really had a chance to write any of the Batman-related characters, so this opportunity was very exciting for me. Aside from Batman himself, of course, The Joker is probably the most iconic character in that corner of DC. But I didn't really feel intimidated by it, really just excited to try and do something new and fresh and put our own spin on The Joker, while still celebrating all the great stories that have come before.

ANDREA SORRENTINO: We wanted to show a man who can crawl under your skin and walk into your mind just by using his words. Like that kind of psychopath who can freak you out even while he's handcuffed to a chair from behind glass.

How do you describe the visual tone of the series? What type of mood are you looking to establish?

SORRENTINO: We're aiming for a real take on the character. Even the



Gotham or the Arkham Asylum we see in the book are stripped of their usual gothic aesthetic to show themselves as real places.

And the story is really a crescendo. We see madness growing and growing through the issues.

Do other familiar characters beyond The Joker play a part in Killer Smile?

LEMIRE: They sure do. You can't have Joker without his favorite dancing partner, can you? But The Joker is the focus of this book. Any other DC characters are there in support of telling a really great Joker story.

Let's talk about Dr. Ben Arnell—how is he so [clearly misguided] confident he can diagnose The Joker?

LEMIRE: Ben is a great guy. Nothing wrong with good ol' Ben Arnell. He'll be totally fine, I promise. Chances are good Ben will succeed in treating The Joker's madness, and the story will have a very happy ending for all. Really.

Or...Dr. Ben Arnell could be the reader's gateway into terror and insanity, and a whole world of mayhem like nothing Gotham has ever seen.

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

